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It is also to be appreciated that while the terms user, customer, installer, homeowner, occupant, guest, tenant, landlord, repair person, and the like may be used to refer to the person or persons acting in the context of some particularly situations described herein, these references do not limit the scope of the present teachings with respect to the person or persons who are performing such actions. Thus, for example, the terms user, customer, purchaser, installer, subscriber, and homeowner may often refer to the same person in the case of a single-family residential dwelling, because the head of the household is often the person who makes the purchasing decision, buys the unit, and installs and configures the unit, and is also one of the users of the unit. However, in other scenarios, such as a landlord-tenant environment, the customer may be the landlord with respect to purchasing the unit, the installer may be a local apartment supervisor, a first user may be the tenant, and a second user may again be the landlord with respect to remote control functionality. Importantly, while the identity of the person performing the action may be germane to a particular advantage provided by one or more of the implementations, such identity should not be construed in the descriptions that follow as necessarily limiting the scope of the present teachings to those particular individuals having those particular identities.

Although various drawings illustrate a number of logical stages in a particular order, stages that are not order dependent may be reordered and other stages may be combined or broken out. While some reordering or other groupings are specifically mentioned, others will be obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art, so the ordering and groupings presented herein are not an exhaustive list of alternatives. Moreover, it should be recognized that the stages can be implemented in hardware, firmware, software or any combination thereof.

The foregoing description, for purpose of explanation, has been described with reference to specific implementations. However, the illustrative discussions above are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the scope of the claims to the precise forms disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in view of the above teachings. The implementations were chosen in order to best explain the principles underlying the claims and their practical applications, to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best use the implementations with various modifications as are suited to the particular uses contemplated.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device, comprising:

an exterior including an upper portion and a base portion, the upper portion having a top surface and a first periphery, the base portion having a bottom surface and a second periphery, each of the top surface, first periphery cross-section, bottom surface and second periphery cross-section being substantially circular, the second periphery of the base portion including an acoustically transparent wall and being covered by a first surface material, and the first periphery having a second surface material that is different from the first surface material;

two or more speakers that are concealed within the exterior and face at least two distinct directions, each speaker being attached to and extending below the upper portion, wherein the two or more speakers face towards the acoustically transparent wall of the base portion;

one or more microphones configured to collect audio inputs;

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one or more display LEDs mounted in the upper portion, wherein the one or more display LEDs are configured to indicate status of voice processing associated with an audible user request captured by the one or more microphones;

one or more processors electrically coupled to the microphone, the one or speakers, and the one or more display LEDs; and

a power supply connector disposed at the base portion and configured to couple to an external power supply to power the electronic device.

2. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the upper portion and the base portion are separable and moveable between a joined position and a separated position, and when the upper portion and the base portion are in the joined position, a first external surface of the upper portion and a second external surface of the base portion form an overall exterior of the electronic device.

3. The electronic device of claim 2, wherein the base portion has a circular opening, and the upper and base portions are configured to be moved from the separated position to the joined position by movement of the one or more speakers through the circular opening of the base portion.

4. The electronic device of claim 3, wherein the base portion further includes a first opening that is distinct from the circular opening of the base portion, and the first opening in the base portion is located at a bottom side of the base portion and configured to expose a bottom side of the upper portion when the upper portion and the base portion are in the joined position.

5. The electronic device of claim 4, wherein the first opening of the base portion is circular and is annular with the circular opening of the base portion.

6. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the acoustically transparent wall of the base portion includes a porous wall configured to let the sound provided by the one or more speakers to go out of the electronic device.

7. The electronic device of claim 1, wherein the upper portion and the base portion are configured to be joined securely and separated through manual human manipulation of one or both of the upper portion and the base portion to move the upper and base portions between the separated and joined positions.

8. The electronic device of claim 1, further comprising electronic components coupled to the upper portion and contained at least in part within the base portion, wherein: the electronic components include a first electrical connector configured to supply power and/or data to the electronic components and/or to output data signals from the electronic components when the first electrical connector is connected to an external power and/or data connector;

the first electrical connector includes a plurality of first electrical contacts configured in a pattern that is substantially co-planar with a base surface of the electronic components; and

the first electrical contacts of the first electrical connector are configured to couple electrically with corresponding second electrical contacts of the external power and/or data connector provided at a second surface external to the electronic device.

9. The electronic device of claim 8, wherein the first electrical connector is configured to provide a hard wired network connection to the electronic components to allow for high speed network operation.